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A 'LEMONADE' FOR JAY Z?

The rapper is rumored to have an album response in the works. 18

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Philly, Boston and New York avoid culture wars by making transgender access to restrooms a matter of identity. 16

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3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

OBAMA: FILTERED WATER IN FLINT IS SAFE FOR KIDS OVER 6 YEARS OLD

President Barack Obama visited Flint, Michigan, on Wednesday, a city struggling with the effects of lead-poisoned drinking water, as questions linger over whether his environmental regulators could have acted more urgently to address the crisis. He urged parents in Flint to ensure their children were tested for lead in their blood even as he sought to assure the community that filtered water in the city was safe for anyone over the age of 6. Obama said it would take more than two years to replace water pipes in the city.

REUTERS

US TO BOOST AIRPORT STAFFING TO MANAGE LONG SECURITY LINES

2 With airlines worried that long security lines may discourage summer travelers, the U.S. government said on Wednesday it will add airport staff and bomb-sniffing dogs and ramp up pre-screening enrollment efforts. The U.S. Transportation Security Administration will add officers at airports expected to have the highest passenger volumes, said Jeh Johnson, secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, in a statement on Wednesday. He added that he has asked Congress to approve additional funds to pay for officers' overtime and to meet "critical short-term needs."

REUTERS

FACEBOOK PAYS $10,000 TO 10-YEAR-OLD INSTAGRAM HACKER

3 Facebook has paid a $10,000 reward to a 10-year-old Finnish boy for finding a glitch in its picture sharing app Instagram. Jani, whose last name was not released for privacy reasons, is the youngest ever recipient of Facebook's "bug bounty," paid to users who find bugs or weaknesses in its platforms. "I wanted to see if Instagram's comment field could stand malicious code. Turns out it couldn't," Jani told Finland's Iltalehti newspaper. Facebook said the glitch was fixed in February and the reward was paid in March. Jani, who is still too young to have a Facebook or Instagram account of his own, said he learned coding from YouTube videos and found a way to delete user comments from Instagram accounts. "I could have deleted anyone's comments from there. Even Justin Bieber's," he told Iltalehti. He said he was thinking about a career in data security, but for now his plans include buying a new bike and a soccer ball with his reward money. REUTERS

An Uber driver displays the company name in their passenger side window. GETTY IMAGES

Bill to legalize apps like Uber, Lyft moves forward in Pa. House

Bill introduced more than a year ago took a big step forward Wednesday.

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Supporters of Uber and Lyft ride-sharing services got a significant boost Wednesday when a Pennsylvania bill spelling out a regulatory framework for the companies moved favorably out of a House committee.

Uber and Lyft have both been operating illegally in Philadelphia and under a temporary regulatory framework in the other 66 counties of Pennsylvania. This bill, which would legalize the services and bring them under the supervision of the Philadelphia Parking Authority (PPA) within Philadelphia County, now will move to the full state House of Representatives, and then, if approved, to the governor's desk for his signature.

It already passed the state Senate, 48 to 2.

The House Consumer Affairs Committee voted 23 to 2 to move the legislation forward.

Committee chair Bob Godshall previously called on representatives of Uber, Lyft, the PPA and Pennsylvania Utilities Commission to find a compromise by last Wednesday. While they were a week late, they seem to have met his demand.

"Times do change, technology changes, and we have to recognize it," Godshall said after the vote.

Godshall said that after this bill is dealt with by the House, he will also be seeking to address the concerns of taxi and medallion drivers.

"I made a commitment that I would meet with the Philadelphia delegation and the taxi groups, once we get this whole thing settled," he said. "We will have a hearing pertaining to the taxi and medallion situation."

In Philly, the PPA has sparred intensely with Uber and Lyft, even staging a sting in which some UberX drivers' vehicles were impounded. But PPA spokesman Marty O'Rourke said the groups participated in "numerous, numerous meetings" to hammer out the current version of the bill.

"The PPA worked with Uber and the mayor's office the last three weeks," O'Rourke said. "It was a compromised piece of legislation that everyone seems to be very happy with and supportive of."

Under the current version of the bill, a 1 percent tax will get tacked onto Uber and Lyft rides, which will be split between the School District of Philadelphia and the PPA.

The bill also requires annual car inspections, $1 million of insurance liability per car, and multistate background, criminal and sex offender checks for drivers.

There may be more changes to come, Lyft and Uber proponents said, although they support the bill moving forward.

"While there are still aspects of the current bill we are concerned with, we are glad it is moving through the legislative process and look forward to continuing the public discussion about the benefits ridesharing brings to people in Pennsylvania," Lyft spokeswoman Chelsea Wilson said in a statement. "We now look to the full House to finalize this legislation and bring the bill to a floor vote."

Steve DelBianco, executive director of NetChoice, part of the Driving Philly Forward pro-Uber/Lyft coalition, echoed that sentiment.

"While this bill is not perfect, it is needed to create a clear regulatory framework for ridesharing across all of Pennsylvania," DelBianco said in a statement. "We hope that lawmakers in Harrisburg will continue backing a statewide solution for ridesharing and bring this bill to a floor vote as soon as possible."

"While there are still aspects of the current bill we are concerned with, we are glad it is moving through the legislative process and look forward to continuing the public discussion about the benefits ridesharing brings to people in Pennsylvania."

Wilson

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Benjamin Martinez, son of a leader of a North Philadelphia grocers association, drinks a Coke as he joined protesters. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Philly protesters call soda tax 'repressive' at boisterous City Hall rally

The trucks that carry soda and sugary drinks in bulk snarled traffic Wednesday when they circled City Hall.

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Before a backdrop of stockpiled sugary drinks packaged on a podium on City Hall's north apron, protesters rallied against Mayor Jim Kenney's proposed soda tax on Wednesday.

Moments before, dozens of distribution trucks circled City Hall, horns blaring, to signal the rallying cry for the demonstration to begin.

At three cents per ounce, Kenney plans to use the tax — which would be leveled at distributors — to fund universal pre-K, improvements to park and recreation centers, community schools and reinvest in the city's beleaguered pension system. He hopes to generate upwards of $400 million over five years, but not everyone is as optimistic about the proposal.

The measure requires approval by City Council.

Daniel Grace, treasurer for the Teamsters Local 830, joined several members of Philadelphia City Council and small business owners in support of the Philadelphians Against the Grocery Tax coalition's cause.

"Let's be clear on what the city is proposing — a tax of three cents an ounce on any beverage that contains sugar. Three cents per ounce — not per bottle," Grace told the crowd.

"That includes not only your favorite sodas, but also fountain drinks, kids' juice drinks, lemonade, apple ciders, mixers and mixes, flavored milk, iced tea, iced coffee, enhanced water, energy drinks, sport drinks and other sugar-sweetened beverages that families enjoy every day," he said. "The Kenney administration's proposed sugary drink tax is the definition of repressive."

Kenny Poon, who owns a good number of restaurants in Chinatown, including Bon Chon, Tango, Tea Do, Yamitsuki Ramen and more, said that he employs about 25 people in his company is trying to open up four more locations in the city, but may have to reconsider if the tax is passed.

"My partners say, 'why Philly?' If they really want to … we might as well move to a different city. I hope its not going to happen," he said.

"I'm pretty sure the city can get some money, not from the grocery tax."

The Kenney administration responded to the outcry Wednesday by saying much of Philly supports the tax.

"It was a rally funded by the soda industry to try to protect their million-dollar profits. They paid a lot of people to come in from New Jersey to make it seem like this was driven by the people, but at the end of the day, most Philadelphians support the soda tax because it's the fairest way to tax desperately needed educational programs," said Communications Director Lauren Hitt.

Taubenberger, who spent part of Tuesday in a Council hearing addressing the issue with Philadelphia Health Commissioner Thomas Farley, said people want their sugary drinks, and "if we pass this tax, you're going to see the greatest bootleg operation since prohibition right in this town."

"No one is going to argue against kindergarten for children. The mayor is right. But the tax is not noble," Taubenberger said.

"That tax has more holes in it in how to collect it and everything else since Swiss cheese! You're putting a citywide burden on the backs of one industry and one customer base."

The Philadelphians Against the Grocery Tax coalition claims more than 1,000 businesses have joined their coalition, along with nearly 13,000 citizens.

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Family members of fallen police officers and firefighters gathered at Franklin Square Park for the annual Living Flame memorial service in Old City Philadelphia, May 04, 2016. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Philly officer who died from health complications honored Wednesday

Officer Walter DeWitt III was added to Living Flame Memorial Wednesday.

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One more name was added to the monument in the middle of Franklin Square Park Wednesday during the annual Living Flame memorial ceremony, which honors fallen police officers and firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Officer Walter J. DeWitt III, 55, a 33-year veteran and decorated member of the Philadelphia Police Department, died suddenly in June of last year from complications on the operating table. He was undergoing surgery to his shoulder after suffering a recurring injury he originally sustained in the line of service in 1995. In 2014, he was reinjured in an accident at the Philadelphia Police Academy firing range, requiring the surgery in 2015.

A great number of police officers, firefighters, public officials, including Mayor Jim Kenney, Police Commissioner Richard Ross, Deputy Fire Commissioner Jesse Wilson and DeWitt's family members and friends were in attendance at Wednesday's service. DeWitt's widow, Denise, and his son, Walter J. DeWitt IV, 18, laid wreaths at the base of the Living Flame Memorial as the Philadelphia Police and Fire Pipes and Drums played a number of musical selections.

"I'm very grateful he's being honored," said DeWitt IV.

"He did 33 years here. Twenty of them were injured from his police crash in 1995, which the car malfunctioned, so he worked with a messed up shoulder for 20 years, and then it was reinjured recently."

City Managing Director Michael DiBerardinis said Philadelphia is the only major city in the U.S. with a memorial dedicated to fallen police and firefighters combined.

The city has honored police and fire heroes lost in the line of duty for the past 20 years at the 7th and Race streets site. The ceremony takes place annually during the first week of May.

"These men and women are united by one common cause, to respond to those in need, no matter what the danger or risk of personal harm," said DiBerardinis.

"We will never be able to fully express our gratitude for their service in the daily course of protecting all of us."

According to city documents, since records have been kept at the Philadelphia Fire Department, dating back to 1871, 290 members have made the ultimate sacrifice in the official line of duty. Since 1828, at the police department, 270 officers have lost their lives.

"It is my sincere prayer that God strengthens you for what you have continued to endure over the years in grief and sorrow," said Ross.

"I pray for you daily."

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The street where the body was found GOOGLE MAPS

Death of body found only in undewear in Holmesburg yard under investigation

Police are investigating the discovery of a man's body on Wednesday morning as a suspicious death.

Around 6:50 a.m., the body, wearing only underwear, was found on the 8100 block of Crispin Street in Holmesburg, Philly.com reported.

The body, found in the backyard of a home, was that of a man believed to have been in his 30s, CBS3 stated.

The body showed signs of blunt force trauma, according to Philly.com.

Investigators were trying to determine the victim's identity and ascertain how he had died, CBS3 added.

Police have not made an arrest in the case, Philly.com added.

JASON NUCKOLLS

Two police-involved Philly shootings overnight leave one man dead, one injured

After police initially heard gunshots, they found a man standing behind a house firing a gun into the air.

JASON NUCKOLLS
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letters@metro.us

Philadelphia police were involved in a pair of unrelated overnight shootings that left one man dead and another hospitalized with a gunshot injury to his leg.

The first shooting, on the 5300 block of Grays Avenue, occurred around 11 p.m. Tuesday night, CBS3 reported. After police initially heard gunshots, they found a man, about 40 years old, standing behind a house firing a gun into the air.

When authorities told the man to drop the weapon, "[He] aims and fires one shot at police, misses, and one of the officers fires two times back and shoots [him] in the leg," Lt. Raymond Evers said to CBS3. "We have the male in the hospital — he is in custody."

The second shooting happened around 1 a.m. near the corner of Overbrook and Lancaster avenues, according to NBC10, which added that police had received calls from college students about a suspicious man in the area.

When police tried to stop the man described in the calls, he allegedly attempted to flee in a minivan, NBC10 added. Authorities said he then tried to run down officers attempting to stop him.

"Apparently, [the driver] attempts to flee from them, trapping one of the officers between the car and some other area where [the officer] didn't feel he could escape, and he discharged his weapon," Philadelphia Police Commissioner Richard Ross was quoted by NBC10. "That male was struck, one time I think, and he was subsequently pronounced dead."

The driver of the van was identified as Richard Ferretti, 52, of Andreas in northeast Pennsylvania.

The minivan crashed into another vehicle on Overbrook Avenue during the shooting.

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RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

Trump, last man standing in Republican White House race, now has to unify party

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus called Trump the party's presumptive nominee in a tweet on Tuesday night.

Donald Trump became the last man standing in the race for the Republican presidential nomination on Wednesday, as one after the other his sole remaining rivals, Ted Cruz and John Kasich, faded out of the picture.

Anointed the presumptive nominee after winning Indiana on Tuesday, the 69-year-old New York billionaire turned to a new phase in his campaign, planning to set up a vice presidential selection committee and stepping up efforts to seek unity with more Republicans.

But the wounds from a brutal primary battle were still raw among many Republican loyalists who simply cannot bear to support Trump because they worry he could spell disaster for the party in the Nov. 8 elections.

Kasich, the Ohio governor who stayed in the race in hopes of persuading Republicans to choose him as the nominee at a contested convention in July, has dropped out of the race now that a contested convention has been averted.

Trump has overcome sustained opposition from Republican rivals by using his star power to give voice to an anti-establishment movement. His supporters have been wildly enthusiastic about his "America First" platform, which has strayed far from some conservative bulwarks like free trade and military interventionism.

Trump has been a divisive GOP candiate. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BILLY BECERRA, GETTY IMAGE

Trump's immediate challenge is to mend deep fissures within the Republican Party, easing tensions with party loyalists who have been appalled by his bombastic, bullying style, his denigrating comments about women and his proposals to build a wall on the border with Mexico and deport 11 million illegal immigrants.

In a series of Wednesday morning television interviews, Trump made clear he would not be looking to placate everyone after a tumultuous primary campaign in which many establishment Republicans rejected him and spawned Stop Trump and Never Trump movements.

"I am confident that I can unite much of it, some of it I don't want," Trump said on NBC's "Today" show. "Honestly, there are some people I really don't want. People will be voting for me. They're not voting for the party."

Trump believes more Republicans will support him when they consider the possibility of Hillary Clinton, favorite to be the Democratic nominee, being elected president, Trump spokeswoman Katrina Pierson said.

REUTERS

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Lawsuit extends fascination with Kent State 46 years on

The Kent State shootings, also known as the May 4 massacre or the Kent State massacre, occurred at Kent State University and involved the shooting of unarmed college students by the Ohio National Guard in 1970.

National Guard troops throw tear gas into the rioters at Kent State protesting the American invasion of Cambodia. UNDERWOOD ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES

A federal lawsuit filed on Wednesday revives lingering questions about the bloodshed at Kent State University, a traumatic event in U.S. history that still holds sway over many who lived through it 46 years ago.

The lawsuit, filed in the Western District of New York by Buffalo attorney Michael Kuzma, asks the Federal Bureau of Investigation to release all records about a mysterious figure in the events of May 4, 1970, when Ohio National Guard troops shot dead four unarmed people and wounded nine others during a campus protest against the Vietnam War.

The deaths inflamed emotions in a country already polarized over the war and left an image seared in the national memory: John Paul Filo's Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of Mary Ann Vecchio grieving over the body of victim Jeffrey Miller.

The investigation left many who followed the case unsatisfied, and unanswered questions surround a man named Terry Norman.

Norman, now 67, was a student and informant for the FBI. He carried a .38 handgun and a camera that day and his precise role has been disputed ever since.

Some experts speculate he fired the shots that provoked the National Guard's volley, although he told investigators he never shot his gun. Others have said he may have fired rounds 70 seconds earlier that had no bearing on the National Guard.

Norman has kept quiet, declining all media inquiries over the years. Reuters could not reach him at his last listed telephone number and email address.

"Terry Norman is in a sense the second gunman on the grassy knoll ... He's been kind of a handy bogeyman or a red herring," said Howard Means, author of the recently released "67 Shots: Kent State and the End of American Innocence."

Means and William A. Gordon, author of the 1990 book "Four Dead in Ohio," said they believe the FBI has released all relevant documents about Norman but they support another effort to force the agency to check its files again. REUTERS

Tesla Motors Model 3 GETTY IMAGES

Tesla production, spending rising

Electric carmaker Tesla Motors said it would accelerate production to meet strong demand for its upcoming Model 3 mass-market sedan, but higher spending will make it harder to reach promises of profitability this year.

Tesla shares rose more than 5 percent to $234.70 in after hours trade on Wednesday after the company said it was on track to deliver 80,000 to 90,000 electric vehicles this year and vowed to reach an annual production target of 500,000 cars in 2018, two years faster than expected.

Tesla reported a wider first-quarter net loss, although results broadly beat Wall Street targets.

But a 50 percent rise to $2.25 billion for 2016 capital expenditures, and a suggestion the company might need to tap the capital markets, underscored cash hurdles for the Silicon Valley company led by Elon Musk.

"Increasing production five fold over the next two years will be challenging and likely require some additional capital but this is our goal," Tesla said in a statement.

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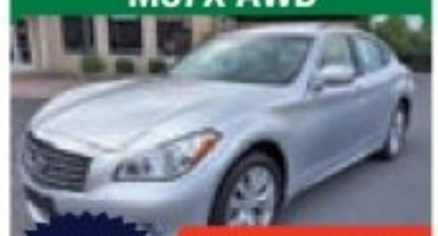
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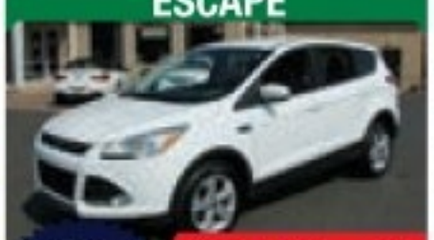
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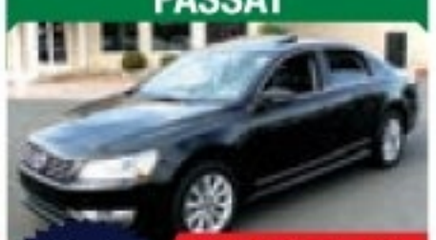
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Carter: US, allies to do more to combat Islamic State

The defense secretary made the comment following talks in Germany with defense ministers and representatives from 11 other countries participating in the alliance.

A F18 Super Hornet prepares to land on a US Navy aircraft carrier. GETTY IMAGES

U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said on Wednesday that Washington and its allies had agreed to do more in their campaign to defeat Islamic State, but that more risks lay ahead.

Carter said the United States greatly regretted the death of a Navy SEAL in an attack by the jihadist group in northern Iraq on Tuesday, naming the man as Petty Officer First Class Charles Keating.

"These risks will continue ... but allowing ISIL safe haven would carry greater risk for us all," Carter added, using an acronym for Islamic State.

"We also agreed that all of our friends and allies across the counter-ISIL coalition can and must do more as well, both to confront ISIL in Iraq and Syria and its metastases elsewhere."

The talks included ministers from France, Britain and Germany and were planned well in advance of Tuesday's attack, in which Islamic State fighters blasted through Kurdish defenses and overran a town.

The elite serviceman was the third American to be killed in direct combat since the U.S.-led coalition launched a campaign in 2014 to "degrade and destroy" Islamic State, and is a measure of its deepening involvement in the conflict.

Offering new details about Keating's mission, Carter said the SEAL's job was to operate with Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga forces to train and assist them north of the city of Mosul.

In mid-April, the United States announced plans to send an additional 200 troops to Iraq and put them closer to the front lines of battle to advise Iraqi forces.

In late April, President Barack Obama announced he would send an additional 250 special operations forces to Syria, greatly expanding the U.S. presence on the ground there to help draw in more Syrian fighters to combat Islamic State.

Carter said the risks extended to pilots flying a U.S.-led campaign of daily air strikes. "Every time a pilot goes up in an airplane above Syria or Iraq they're at risk," he said.

The Islamist militants have been broadly retreating since December, when the Iraqi army recaptured Ramadi, the largest city in the western region. Last month, the Iraqi army retook the nearby region of Hit, pushing the militants further north along the Euphrates River valley.

But U.S. officials acknowledge that the military gains are not enough. REUTERS

Raging wildfire forces evacuation of 88K in Alberta, Canada, city

A raging wildfire that forced the evacuation of all 88,000 residents of the western Canadian city of Fort McMurray has destroyed 1,600 structures, ravaged one neighborhood, damaged others and halted incoming and outgoing commercial flights, authorities said on Wednesday.

"This is a nasty and dirty fire," Chief Darby Allen of the Fort McMurray fire department told reporters of a blaze that has prompted the biggest evacuation ever in Canada's Alberta province.

Fuel shortages and heavy traffic snarled the departure of residents from Fort McMurray, located in the northeastern part of the province of Alberta in the heart of Canada's oil sands region.

Handout photo obtained courtesy of the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Department. LYNN DAINA/GETTY IMAGES

Firefighters have not been able to bring the wildfire under control since it began on Sunday, and hot, dry winds forecast for later on Wednesday promised to complicate matters. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the military would deploy planes to help the stricken city if needed.

While major oil sands facilities were not in the fire's path, the blaze disrupted some operations. Royal Dutch Shell PLC said one of its oil sands mines was closed and another was in the process of being shut down. Suncor Energy Inc., whose oil sands operations are closest to the city, said it was reducing crude production. REUTERS

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Cities, schools say transgender restroom use a matter of identity

Philly, Boston and NYC adopted non-discrimination policies long before access became part of "culture war."

America's culture wars have moved from the voting booth to the wedding chapel and, now, to the restroom, where the debate over transgender individuals' rights has states, cities, schools and businesses adopting non-discrimination policies.

That's been the approach taken by the Philadelphia School District, Massachusetts state lawmakers and New York City, all of which have come out strongly in favor of transgender people using bathrooms of their gender identity.

But long before who was allowed to use restrooms became a presidential campaign issue, city halls and school districts in Boston, New York and Philadelphia had been quietly dealing with it. Their policies, according to spokespersons, complied with federal civil rights guidelines from the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) and respected the privacy of students, employees and citizens.

All without causing a backlash.

"This has become a front-page story, maybe because of the presidential races, but districts have been facing this for a long time without it becoming a big deal," said Mark Fitzgerald, a partner at Fox Rothschild, a firm that has worked with school districts across Pennsylvania and advised them on policies for trans students.

"They seem to be using common sense and working with the kids and making sure they're comfortable," he said. "You don't necessarily need a policy, but you need to be mindful of what the legal obligations are from such governing entities as the OCR."

Philadelphia

The Philadelphia School District allows its transgender students to use the bathroom of the gender they identify with under a general policy for multi-racial, -cultural, and -gender education, said spokesman Fernando Gallard.

"We accommodate students' requests to use bathroom facilities or any other types of facilities, according to the gender that they identify with," he said. "We are in the midst of working on a policy that specifically talks about the rights of transgender and gender-nonconforming students."

Standard bathroom signs are differentiated for women and men. ISTOCK

Philadelphia's non-discrimination law says that citywide, transgender people can use the bathroom of the gender they identify with, everywhere from the airport to City Hall.

"Transgender people have been using the bathroom that is appropriate for their gender identity, not what is on their birth certificate, for years in Philadelphia," said Nellie Fitzpatrick, Philly's director of LGBT Affairs. "The result is all people are safer and healthier."

New York

In New York City, the Department of Education (DOE) has created guidelines intended to help schools across the city guarantee a safe learning environment while also ensuring the social integration of transgender students.

The guidelines address areas such as students' official records, use of proper names and pronouns, sports and physical education, restroom and locker room accessibility, and also offers resources for transgender or "transitioning" students.

"We are dedicated to creating a safe and supportive environment for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals," said DOE spokeswoman Toya Holness. "Bathroom use is an important issue for our students and we are working to ensure the facilities in our buildings are inclusive of all genders over the coming months."

According to the guidelines, a transgender student should not be required to use a locker room or restroom that conflicts with their gender identity.

Transgender students who seek more private matters when it comes to using the bathroom or a locker room will be provided with alternative arrangements such as private areas or use of single-stall restroom, according to the DOE.

In March, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio signed an executive order requiring city agencies to guarantee that employees and the public will be given access to city single-sex facilities consistent with their gender identity without being required to verify their gender.

The order applies to city-owned buildings, public parks, pools, certain museums, and recreation centers. City agencies are also required to post the new single-sex facility policy in visible locations.

Massachusetts

Massachusetts lawmakers appear poised to pass a bill that would add discrimination protections for transgender people in public places such as parks and restaurants. Some of their colleagues have raised objections, however, citing concerns about privacy in bathrooms and locker rooms.

The measure has support from a majority of legislators by a wide margin, as well as many top politicians, among them Boston Mayor Marty Walsh. Walsh in 2015 opened two gender-neutral bathrooms in City Hall. Boston this week became the fourth city in the nation to fly the white-pink-and-blue transgender pride flag. It has been flying on a pole in City Hall Plaza since Monday. SAM NEWHOUSE, ANGY ALTAMIRANO AND SPENCER BUELL

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Reverse mortgages first took hold when President Reagan signed the FHA Reverse Mortgage Bill into law over 25 years ago to help senior citizens remain in their homes. They're simply an effective way for homeowners 62 and older to get the cash they need.

Although today's HECM reverse mortgage loans have been greatly improved to provide greater protection for homeowners, there are still a lot of misconceptions. For example, many people mistakenly believe the home must be paid off in full in order to qualify for a reverse mortgage, which is not the case.

One key benefit of a reverse mortgage is that it automatically pays off your existing mortgage, which frees up cash flow, a huge blessing for those on a fixed income. Unfortunately, many homeowners who could benefit from a reverse mortgage loan don't even bother to get more information due to rumors they've heard.

"I have been able to repair my home's foundation that I had been putting off for several years, refinish the hardwood floors, paint the interior and will have the exterior painted within a few days. My house is starting to look like my home again and it feels good."

- Betty Carter

That's a shame because reverse mortgages are helping many seniors live a better life. In fact, a recent survey by American Advisors Group (AAG), the nation's number one reverse mortgage lender, found that 95% of their clients are satisfied with their reverse mortgages.

If you're a homeowner age 62 or older, you owe it to yourself to learn more so that you can make an informed decision.

Homeowners who are interested in learning more can request a free 2016 HECM Reverse Mortgage Information Kit and free Educational DVD by calling American Advisors Group today at this special toll-free number **1-(800) 840-8653.**

You may be pleasantly surprised what you discover about this "retirement secret" when you call for more information today.

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Jay Z planning a "Lemonade" of his own

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

This will do little to quiet skeptics who think Beyonce and Jay Z's relationship troubles are all made up to boost album and concert ticket sales: The Tidal boss is reportedly planning his own album as a response to "Lemonade," Beyonce's latest work that seems to detail their near-split. "Jay is working on an album telling his side of things," a source tells Us Weekly. Let's just hope there isn't a song that includes, "Nah, but it really was some good hair" as a lyric.

The Kardashians eyeing a Vegas residency

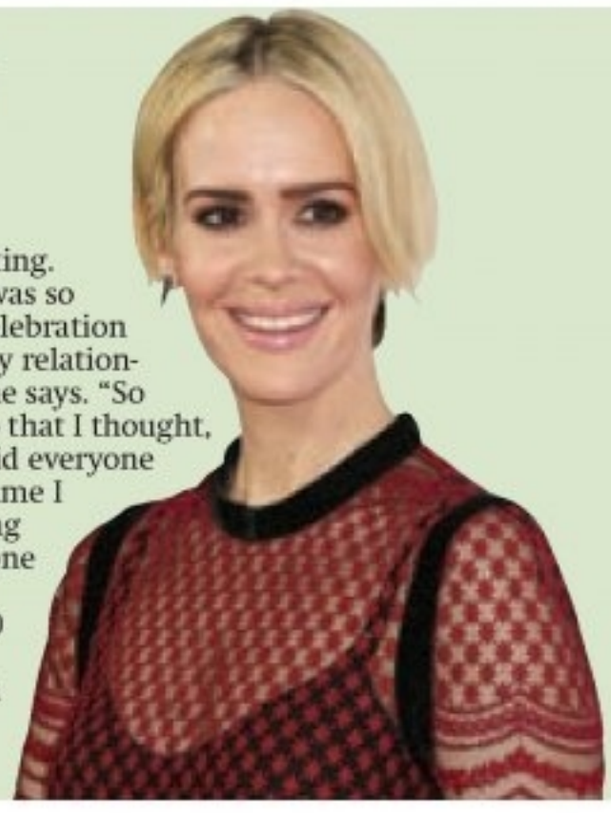
Honestly, this seems like a match made in tacky heaven. Kris Jenner is reportedly considering packing up the whole Kardashian team and sending them to Las Vegas for a residency at the Mirage called "Kardashians Live," according to In Touch. "It would be like a live version of their reality show but also a talk show with special musical guests," a source says. "Kris thinks fans will gladly fork over $50 per ticket for a live experience with her famously dysfunctional family." The sad part is, she's probably not wrong.

Rumer Willis won't take Photoshop "bullying"

Hollywood can be a cruel place, crueler than high school, even. Just ask Rumer Willis, who can't seem to catch a break from all the professional mean girls out there. Bruce and Demi's eldest daughter recently took to Instagram to lambast photographers Mark Williams and Sara Hirakawa for taking liberties with her appearance in a Vanity Fair photo shoot — altering her jaw to make it smaller, without her knowledge or consent.

"The photographer Photoshopped my face to make my jaw smaller and I find it really offensive for anyone to try and change the way you look so drastically," Willis wrote. "I love the way I look and I won't support anyone who would feel a need to change the way I look to make me beautiful. Whether or not they realize it, it is a form of bullying, which I won't stand for." So there.

Sarah Paulson defends her romantic life



Sarah Paulson recently went public about her relationship with fellow actress Holland Taylor, and more than a few folks have been making light of the age difference between the two women. Well, Paulson ain't having it. Or at least, she sounds a bit testy when discussing the idea that your romantic life is your own damn business, thank you very much.

"I believe that everyone should be allowed to speak their truth and just say what they want to say and show the world who they are," she tells the aggressively named NO TOFU magazine. "You should be able to love whomever you f—ing well please." To put it mildly. But Paulson is at least touched — if a bit baffled — by how much strangers care who she's dating. "There was so much celebration about my relationship," she says. "So much so that I thought, 'Jesus, did everyone just assume I was going to be alone forever with 500 cats?'" Hey, you said it, not us.

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Post and Purpose

Post Malone talks "White Iverson," Justin Bieber and "the incident."

ILANA KAPLAN
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Beneath the hip-hop, rapper and producer Post Malone is a little bit country and a little bit rock 'n' roll. Throughout Malone's songs, there's a twang — an ode to country. It's something that's from his time spent in Texas.

Last year, Malone first grabbed fans' attention with his single "White Iverson" — something that launched his career altogether. Lucky for him, the 20-year-old has found himself supporting Justin Bieber on his U.S. tour. Along the way, he's found himself a mentor in Bieber as he prepares to release a mixtape and his debut album.

We caught up with Malone about his latest single, touring with Justin Bieber and "the incident" that caught the world's attention.

Post Malone opens for Justin Bieber's Purpose World Tour at Wells Fargo on May 7 and 8. PROVIDED

Tell me about the story behind your latest single "Go Flex." It's such an amalgamation of different genres.

I started working with a couple of guys in L.A. named Rex and Ryan. I played guitar for them once, and they were like, let's incorporate both sounds and make something cohesive, but different at the same time. That's how the sound and the idea for the song came about.

How did the success of "White Iverson" change your life?

It's probably the biggest change that I would have ever imagined. It's super surreal that I went from absolutely nothing to touring around the United States and playing shows everywhere. It's probably the most exciting thing that's ever happened to me.

Who did you grow up listening to? How did these artists inspire your music now?

Well, my dad showed me the beauty of every type of music — from Metallica and Megadeth to Tupac and N.W.A. I really listened to everything. When I moved to Texas, I came into folk and old school country by myself. I really listen to everything. I know everybody says that, but I really learned to appreciate every genre and artist for who they are for the energy they're trying to convey.

Obviously, you've been performing with Justin several times so far. What's your favorite song off of his latest record "Purpose"?

There are so many. He's so talented. It's so crazy watching him work. It's really inspiring. "Love Yourself," "Sorry" and "Company" are dope. They're all dope. It's impossible for him to make a bad song.

Have you two performed on stage together yet on tour?

No, we haven't performed together yet. But, there may or may not be stuff in the works soon.

Possibly a studio collaboration between you two?

I can't say anything.

Let's talk about that incident with Justin Bieber. Are you guys good? What happened? Is there bad blood?

Of course not. That's my big brother. He gave me the biggest blessing in the world. He's shown me positivity in times where there was only negativity in my brain. We were sitting in a club in Houston, and he was like, "Let's make everybody think that we're mad at each other." And it really worked. We were just messing around. I woke up and my manager was like, "Bro, you're in an English newspaper."

What are you working on for the rest of 2016?

I know I've been saying this, but we have a mixtape coming out soon. The album comes out in August. I want to do more shows and show everyone who I am, really. I'm collaborating with a lot of superdope people, and I can't disclose a lot of information, but there are a lot of cool collabs on [my album]. I'm excited to bring some more flavor to the table.

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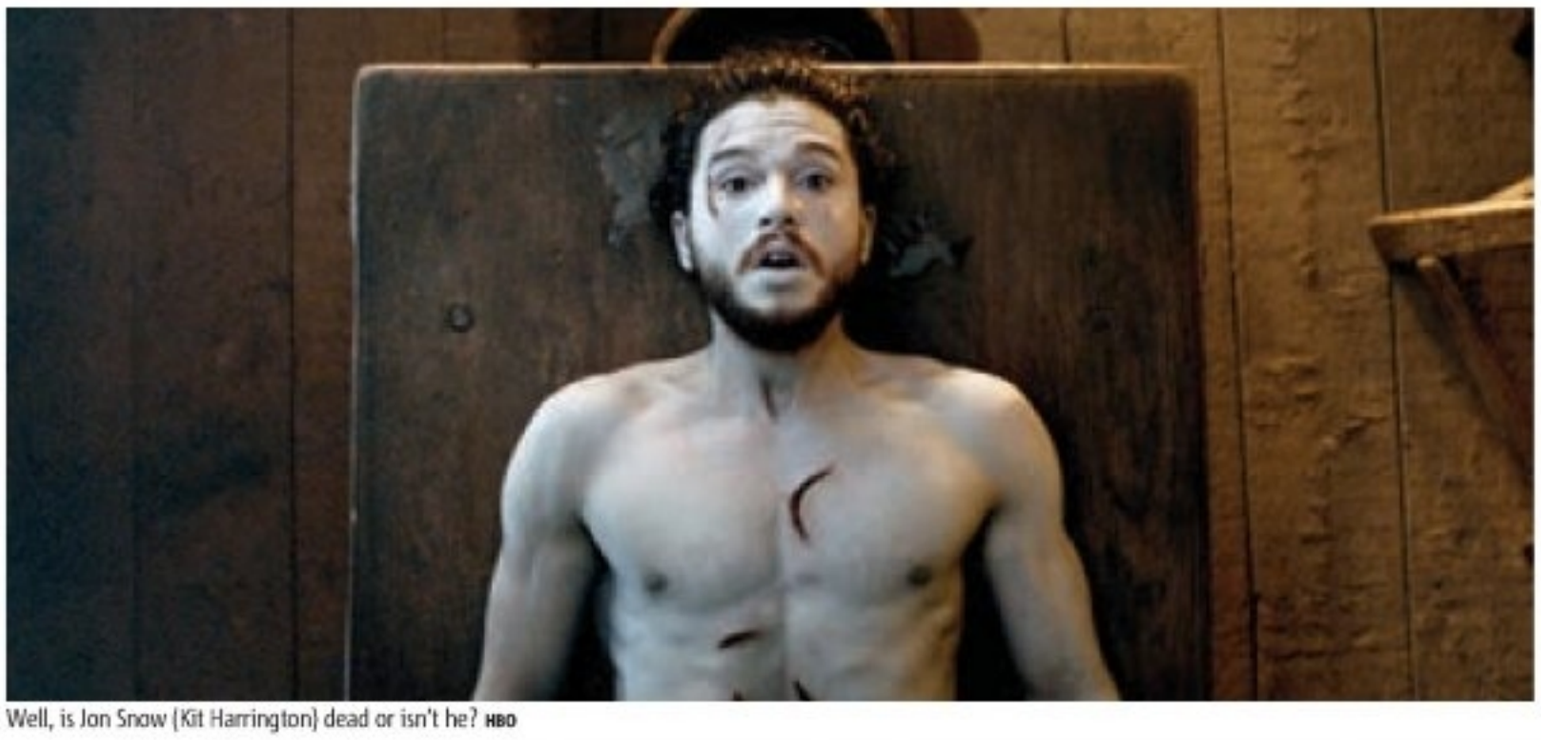

Well, is Jon Snow (Kit Harrington) dead or isn't he? HBO

Can you keep spoilers out of the press these days?

Can anything be kept secret in the entertainment world? I'm pretty sure the answer is no. A certain major cable TV show that aired this weekend was just the latest example. I'm not saying what it is, but you probably know all about it. A certain character is alive again, just as fans have been insisting pretty much since he died. There was enough precedent in the story for his return. But beyond that, the actor had been spotted on set. There was no way to keep this under wraps.

Did that diminish how cool his return actually was? No, it didn't. It's about time networks and studios embraced the fact that spoilers are going to happen, no matter what.

HBO certainly did, showing photos of said character and playing on the fact that everyone believed it would happen. They embraced the spoilers, because they know how the world works.

So when I hear about things like 20th Century Fox deciding not to show new movie footage at Comic-Con because it'll get leaked, I just don't understand. I wrote about it last year when a studio was super upset that fans filmed the video they showed and put it online. Did you not think that would happen? Unless you take everyone's phones away like Disney does at D23 Expo, people are going to post it.

You can continue trying to keep things under wraps, but you just aren't going to succeed. What was even funnier was when Fox released a statement saying it had been betrayed by fans. Oh, shut up. You put a cookie in a room full of toddlers. What did you think was going to happen?

Why not embrace this? People are seeing your trailer and the buzz is huge. Those fans who can make it to major conventions know they're not going to get anything that the rest of the world won't get to see. We don't live in that age anymore. You can keep trying to hold out, but you're not going to be able to do it. So, enjoy the leaks. Enjoy the publicity around it. Just give us all of the cookie and let us tweet about how yummy it is.

Geek Girl in Hollywood

JENNA BUSCH
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Davio's PROVIDED

things to do

WHERE TO EAT, DRINK & PLAY

5 Fabulous brunch picks for Mother's Day in Philly

Brunch is always a good idea but when it comes to Mother's Day, you've got to up the ante. While Philadelphia is chock-full of scrumptious options, not all of your favorite restaurants serve up a special Mother's Day menu. To help you navigate the sea of feasting choices, we've put together five of our favorites. Show Mom that you put a little extra effort in this year, even if you forgot until just now.

JENNIFER LOGUE

Sofitel

12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
$65 per person & half-price for children under 12
120 S. 17th St., Sofitel.com

The Sofitel's menu has something for everyone in the family, from snow crab claws and charcuterie plates to mini cheeseburger sliders. There's a bloody mary and mimosa bar for the adults at the table and Sofitel's even partnered with Robertson's Flowers so you have a beautiful bouquet waiting for Mom when she arrives.

Davio's

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Prices vary
111 S. 17th St., Davios.com

Davio's has made special Mother's Day additions to its menu that include a few yummy brunch options like spaghettini carbonara and a Maine lobster frittata. If you miss the window for brunch, no need to worry — there are special dinner options for Mother's Day as well from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Vesper

12 noon and 2 p.m. seatings
$50 per person (tax and gratuity not included)
223 S. Syndenham St., Jazzitupphilly.com

The fine folks at Jazz it up Philly are throwing it back with a special Jazz Brunch at Vesper, featuring Philly crooner Eddie Bruce backed up by the Tom Adams Trio. Foodwise, diners select two first course options and one dessert. You even get a complimentary glass of bubbly.

R2L

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
$75 per person & $25 for children under 12
50 S. 16th St, R2lrestaurant.com

Looking for a brunch with a view? R2L has your mom's name written all over it. The three course brunch includes everything from signature salads and a raw bar to French toast bread pudding and poached Scottish salmon. Reward yourself for being such a thoughtful child with the chocolate hazelnut gâteau for dessert. It's included.

Moshulu

10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
$59 per person & $25 for children under 12
401 S. Columbus Blvd., Moshulu.com

Ever had brunch on a boat before? Moshulu is docked at Penn's Landing and offers gorgeous views of the Delaware River. For Mother's Day, it's serving up a lavish buffet featuring breakfast selections, soup, salads, a raw bar, carving station, lunch entrees and more.

McDonald dishes on Tinder hookups and more

The comedian and sexpert performs at Helium Comedy Club May 5 through May 7.

A.D. AMOROSI
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

If you go

Heather McDonald
May 5 - May 7
Helium Comedy Club,
2031 Sansom Street.
215-496-9001,
Philadelphia.helium-comedy.com

PROVIDED

Heather McDonald is a wonky, observational comic from California who focuses on life with her kids and husband in her stand-up routine. Doubly amusing, though, is what McDonald brings to stand-up from her other jobs as a sexpert, gossip girl and best-selling author of books like "You'll Never Blue Ball in this Town Again." She also worked on the TV show "Chelsea Lately" for seven years. Before her gig at Helium this week, we caught up with McDonald waiting for her son at karate class in the San Fernando Valley.

As someone who hosted a television show about sex, this should be important — "Loveline" with Dr. Drew Pinksy just ended. Now what?
I think it's sad. I know Dr. Drew personally and been on that show. I even called in during my sophomore year of college and asked his opinion about being an old virgin. I think a loss of stations and the brutal work might've just been tough. I don't think it's any sign that people don't want to talk about sex anymore.

I was getting ready to ask about your sex advice show, but now I have to know what advice he gave you.
His co-host Adam Carolla was like, "Huh?" and thought it was weird. Dr. Drew gave the right advice: "Don't worry about it. Do it at your own time and pace." I wrote about the experience in my "Blue Ball" book.

If Adam Corolla ever advised me, I bet I'd never have sex again. What happened to TLC's "All About Sex?" It was a good show.
I'm disappointed. Any paying gig where you're sitting around talking is a great job. Please, nobody boo-hoo for Kelly Ripa. Girl has the easiest job in the world — she's good, but it's easy being a talk show host. I think "All About Sex's" title was misleading. It wasn't. We talked about a lot of things but it sounded like "How many times can you hear about '50 Shades of Grey?'"

Do you remember the best advice you gave a caller?
Girls, if you're dating and you have to ask a guy, "Where is this going?"— well, you shouldn't have to ask. You're the bomb. Why wouldn't someone want to be your boyfriend? Act desirable. Don't be the person begging for the boyfriend. I can't tell you how many 20-something women I have spoken to have had lots of sex, but have never been taken to dinner — cute, successful girls, at that. They're not making it happen and the guys aren't being taught how to do it. It's really kind of a bummer.

It's a generational thing.
Yes. One where no one is happy. I'm raising young boys and I'm going to teach them how to take women out and treat them. How do guys know what to do? They think life is just showing up in an Uber and screwing women they meet on Tinder.

So you miss "All About Sex" but your podcast is a stitch. How does the podcast world beat out Instagram and Twitter when it comes to gossiping?
The podcast world is its own animal and I'm happy to have a loyal listenership. We're not TMZ. I'm doing stuff now, say, on Beyonce and Jay Z possibly breaking up, but with people calling in with hilarious theories. I have good, smart interviews too with authors and directors, and average about 150,000 downloads per episode.

Speaking of TMZ, what was it like being the subject of gossip fodder there regarding your time on "Chelsea Lately?"
Oh, my God. That was one of the worst things that happened to me.

You've performed stand-up in Philadelphia before. Are you excited to return?
Oh yeah. The last time I was in Philly, I was doing a show and there was this group of like twenty 20-something girls and we went to some bar in the area. They were fun. I was picking out potential dates for them. Philly is a cool city filed with smart funny people. I hope those girls come back.

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Listings

PROVIDED

FESTIVALS

Spruce Street Harbor Park Opening Day

May 6, 11 a.m.
Spruce Street Harbor Park
401 S. Columbus Blvd.,
215-922-2FUN, Free

It's back! Everyone's favorite summertime destination on the Delaware Waterfront returns this Friday, three weeks earlier than usual. This year's Spruce Street Harbor Park will look similar to past years', with more than 50 hammocks hanging from illuminated trees, family-friendly games along the Boardwalk Arcade and the floating beer gardens, where you can lounge with food and drinks from Distrito Taco and Village Burger, among others. The park will be open throughout the summer for your lounging and hammock-nabbing pleasures.

FESTIVALS

South Street Spring Festival

May 7, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
South Street, between 8th and Front streets
Free

South Street makes the arrival of spring official Saturday with its annual and hugely attended South Street Spring Festival. Highlights this year include bites and sips from more than 30 restaurants, bars and food trucks; live musical performances; and Brauhaus Schmitz's jovial German Maifest, where you can try 21 beers, fill up on food and take a twirl around Philadelphia's largest maypole. The first annual taco-eating contest challenges brave souls to wolf down a "Philly taco" — an oversize Lorenzo & Sons pizza slice wrapped around a cheesesteak from Jim's Steaks.

The Philaderby Kentucky Derby Festival

May 7, 3 p.m.-7 p.m.
Piazza at Schmidt's
1040 N. American St.
$40-$60

Grab yourself a mint julep and squeeze the phrase "bless your heart" into your vocabulary for The Philaderby's Kentucky Derby bash at the Piazza in Northern Liberties. The Run for the Roses will be screened live on the Jumbotron while dapperly dressed folks mingle, play games and enjoy live music. Proceeds from the party benefit For Pete's Sake Cancer Respite Foundation.

CINCO DE MAYO

Cinco de Mayo

Block Party

May 5, noon-10 p.m.
Ranstead Street,
between 20th and 21st streets,
215-563-3330
Free

Ranstead Street will be hopping Thursday afternoon with revelers attending El Rey's second annual Cinco de Mayo Block Party. Jam to the sounds of a mariachi band as you chug margaritas and munch on Mexican street fare, like tacos, quesadillas and churros. The affair turns into a dance party after 6 p.m. when the DJ rolls in.

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James J Gittings III unit# 5132

Metro Self Storage
*Public auction at Metro Self Storage 2240 Island Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19142 on MAY 18, 2016 at 9:30 AM. Auction with reserve. Metro Self Storage reserves the right to set minimum bids and refuse bids. CASH ONLY. Contents must be removed within 24 hours. Property contained in the following units will be sold to satisfy the owner's lien for rent under PA code 73 P.S. 1901 et. seq.
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Ivan Irby - Unit 0100
Ivan C. Irby - Unit 0100
Candace Jones - Unit 1114
Nick Comito - Unit 1123
Angela Thiam - Unit 3005
Marjhe D. Chang - Unit 3056
Daniel Platt - Unit 3135
Brett Johnson - Unit 3141
Dawayne R West Sr - Unit 4020
Tamika Gaines - Unit 4041
Paula Williams - Unit 4093
Jane Johnson - Unit 1133

Metro Self Storage
*Public auction at Metro Self Storage 1354 Hook Road Sharon Hill PA 19079 on MAY 18, 2016 at 9:30 AM. Auction with reserve. Metro Self Storage reserves the right to set minimum bids and refuse bids. CASH ONLY. Contents must be removed within 24 hours. Property contained in the following UNITS will be sold to satisfy the owner's lien for rent under PA code 73 P.S 1901 et. seq.
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Michael Gold Genesis II Inc. #222 • Michael Carroll #468 • Brian Welsh #487
Genesis II Inc. #574 • Michael Gold Genesis II Inc. #574 • Genesis II Inc. #575
Michael Gold Genesis II Inc. #575 • Danielle German #635
Raynell King #665 • CC Rider Express #468

Listings

HAPPY HOUR

Our Night Out Philly

May 5, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
La Peg at FringeArts
140 N. Columbus Blvd.,
215-375-7744
$5
Mingle with local LGBTQ folks at this monthly happy hour that doubles as a networking opportunity and chance to support a local charity. La Peg will serve up light fare and cocktails as you make your rounds. The event benefits Delaware Valley Legacy Fund, a nonprofit committed to generating support for LGBTQ organizations in the region.

SHOPPING

Spring Art Star Craft Bazaar

May 7-8, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Great Plaza at Penn's Landing
101 S. Christopher Columbus Blvd.
Free
Northern Liberties boutique Art Star brings back its spring craft bazaar just in time for Mother's Day weekend. Invite Mom along for a day of browsing and shopping. There will be more than 100 local and national artists selling unique handmade goods—everything from home wares to clothing to jewelry. Pro tip: Get there early. The first 150 guests each day will receive a free tote bag stuffed with $5 Art Star Bucks and other small goodies.

MUSIC

Art After 5: From Mod to Motown

May 6, 5 p.m.
Philadelphia Museum of Art
2600 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy.,
215-763-8100
Free after $20 museum admission
Philly's tallest, hairiest drag queen, Martha Graham Cracker, performs in the Great Stair Hall of the Philadelphia Museum of Art to celebrate the museum's latest exhibit, "International Pop." To fit the retro Pop art theme, Miss Graham Cracker will croon tunes from the '60s—everything from Motown to British Invasion to psychedelia. Between sets, swing in to check out the exhibit, which closes May 15.

MOVIES

"Purple Rain" Screening

May 5, 7:30 p.m.
Prince Theater
1412 Chestnut St.,
267-239-2941
$10
The Philadelphia Film Society knows you're sad about the passing of Prince, so it's bringing back to the big screen a showing of "Purple Rain." The 1984 musical drama is semi-autobiographical, following The Kid (Prince) and his band the Revolution as they navigate the competitive Minneapolis music scene. It brought us hits like "Let's Go Crazy" and "When Doves Cry" and made mothers across the country melt in their mom jeans. Advance tickets are sold out, but show up 30 minutes before showtime to take your chance at snagging a rush ticket.

BOOKS

Arianna Huffington

May 6, 7:30 p.m.
Central Branch of the Free Library
1901 Vine St.,
215-686-5322
$30
Huffington Post Editor in Chief Arianna Huffington comes to Philly to discuss her latest book, "The Sleep Revolution: Transforming Your Life, One Night at a Time." The work aims to help readers "renew our relationship with sleep" and, as a result, "take back control of our lives." TV personality Tracey Matisak will lead the conversation, and Ms. Huffington will stick around to sign books after.

DANCE

"Hollywood"

May 6-7, 8 p.m.
The Performance Garage
1515 Brandywine St.
$20-$25
Burgeoning contemporary jazz dance troupe Roger Lee Dance Company stages five new pieces of choreography that explore the highs and lows of making it big in Hollywood. The show concerns an intrepid starlet as she looks for success in Tinseltown, and features routines from Flo Motion Dance Company and more. JOSH MIDDLETON

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11 New things to do at Walt Disney World

The House of Mouse has done some sprucing.

Fodor's Travel

While you eagerly wait for Pandora — The World of Avatar at Animal Kingdom and lands devoted to "Star Wars" and "Toy Story" at Hollywood Studios, Disney's parks aren't standing still. This summer there are dozens of new restaurants, attractions and activities to merit a visit to Orlando.

The Amphicars are part of a massive expansion at Disney Springs. GETTY IMAGES

Star Wars: A Galaxy Far Far Away

This show takes place on the stage right in front of the Chinese Theater at Hollywood Studios several times a day. Interspersed with projected scenes from all the movies, your favorite "Star Wars" heroes and villains appear including Darth Vader, C-3PO, Chewbacca and even BB-8.

Amphicars

The whimsical 1960s-era Amphicars — vintage cars that also float like boats — offer guided tours of Village Lake in front of Disney Springs' The Boathouse restaurant all day long. The trips are not cheap at $125, but they are a unique way for three people to spend 20 minutes, as Amphicar rides are not offered anywhere else in the world. They are unique to Disney Springs and, judging from the wait times, a hit.

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Animal Kingdom Rides by Night

Opens Memorial Day weekend
Popular rides such as Kali River Rapids and Expedition Everest take on an entirely new feeling after dark. And at night, the animals of the Kilimanjaro Safaris (particularly those on the savanna) are much more active. You could see lions, African dogs, hyenas, hippos, elephants and gazelles ambling under a perpetually setting sun.

Colortopia

The newest exhibit at Epcot's Innoventions East explores the power of color in three different areas. The Power of Color Theater combines color with sound and narration to show how color can affect and reflect your mood. The second station, The Color Lab, has two interactive stations that allow you to identify and mix colors and understand how you perceive color. The third station, Color Our World, allows you to create a scene on a digital screen with a "magic paintbrush."

Frozen Ever After

Opens in June
Replacing the popular Maelstrom ride in Epcot's Norway Pavilion, this new ride will join Anna and Elsa in Arendelle for the Winter in Summer celebration, then travel to Elsa's Ice Palace and the North Mountain. All the original cast members returned to record the songs with new orchestrations especially for the ride.

Harambe Market

Open now by day, Memorial Day weekend by night
By day, four walk-up windows serve African-inspired street food in a seafront African village that has been open since last year, with street entertainers and parties. But now the area comes alive at night as well, with the Harambe Wildlife Parti, a new collection of drummers, singers, soccer players/performers and acrobats who will perform throughout the evening.

Mickey's Royal Friendship Faire

Opens in June
This summer brings a brand-new show to the Cinderella Castle Forecourt Stage that includes not only Mickey, Goofy and Donald, but also Tiana, Naveen and Louis the alligator from "The Princess and the Frog"; Anna, Elsa and Olaf from "Frozen"; and Rapunzel and Flynn from "Tangled." It's a joining of classic and contemporary characters with music, dance and plenty of special effects.

Rivers of Light

Opens later this summer
One of Disney's most technically complex and inventive shows debuts later this summer at Animal Kingdom, bringing the Discovery Lagoon to life with dancing fountains, floating lanterns, animal films projected onto curtains of mist, music and other lively performances. The show uses Asian dance, music, shadowpuppets and songs to create a unique spectacle.

Royal Summerhaus

Opens June
Next door to Frozen Ever After in Epcot, the Norwegian village setting for the Royal Summerhaus was created after imagineers traveled to Norway's Trondheim to find a suitable model. The authentic-looking village setting will set the scene for a meet-and-greet with Anna and Elsa inside the Royal Summerhaus itself, a cabin that was modeled on an actual country retreat for Norwegian royals.

Star Wars Launch Bay

Open Now
Already one of the most popular attractions in Disney's Hollywood Studios, Launch Bay contains an extensive exhibit of "Star Wars" replica props, vehicles and costumes; a place to play interactive video games; a theater where you can remember the magic of "Star Wars" from the beginning to "The Force Awakens"; and a character interaction area where you can meet and have your photo taken with Chewbacca or Kylo Ren. Stormtroopers march through from time to time, and you might see Sand People, too.

Tree of Life Awakens

Opens Memorial Day weekend
After sunset, flickering fireflies start to bring the animals on the Tree of Life to light. If you look closely, you'll see them start to stir. Later, a series of full animated vignettes erupt from the heart of the tree, bringing to life animals such as a deer, a hummingbird and a fox. It's a spectacle well worth watching and best viewed from a distance. Viewing areas are set up all around Discovery Island.

Hellickson an elder statesman at 29 years old on Phillies' staff

The Phillies' dominating staff is comprised entirely of 20-somethings.

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The Phillies took a chance on former AL Rookie of the Year Jeremy Hellickson and it appears to be paying off. GETTY IMAGES

Five years removed from being American League Rookie of the Year, Jeremy Hellickson finds himself being the "old man" of the Phillies rotation. Surprisingly for the just-turned-29 Hellickson, it's not virgin territory.

"After they traded [David] Price and [James] Shields in Tampa, I was the oldest guy on that staff," revealed Hellickson, the Phils' opening day starter, who became the elder statesman when 32-year-old Charlie Morton went down for the season with a torn hamstring. "Then the same thing last year in Arizona. The only difference is the other four guys are just 23-24 opposed to when I was the oldest guy and there were a couple of 27-year-olds. But these guys are mature beyond their years, so it's not like I'm teaching them stuff.

"It's fun to be around a younger group."

The feeling is mutual among the Phils' "young guns," Aaron Nola, Vince Velasquez, Jerad Eickhoff and Morton's replacement, Adam Morgan.

"He's been helpful in teaching us how to approach the game," said Nola, who follows Hellickson in the rotation order. "I like watching the video of his game, because I feel we're similar in some ways. We can learn just by watching him and seeing his approach to hitters."

Hellickson is happy to be oblige, wishing in retrospect he'd been as inquisitive.

"When I was rookie I was a little more timid than these guys," said Hellickson who went 13-10 with a 2.95 ERA in 2011 to beat the Angels' Mark Trumbo and Royals' Eric Hosmer decisively for Rookie of the Year (he still keeps the trophy in his living room). "I didn't ask as many questions as I should. That's why I try to stay open to these guys as much as possible. They're always trying to learn and they've all had a little experience from last year so it's not like they're brand new.

"I learn from them. They learn from me. It's been fun so far."

Especially with the Phillies unexpected winning, their only blemish in the past week coming when Hellickson — coming off seven shutout innings in a win over the Nationals — served up three homers in St. Louis Monday, including a three-run bomb by opposing pitcher Adam Wainwright that turned the game around.

But he's learned to shake it off and move on to the next start; another lesson he'll try to pass on to the rest. Of course you don't have to be a starting pitcher to appreciate that.

"We had a pretty young staff and he was the guy we leaned on," said David Hernandez, Hellickson's teammate in Arizona last year, before both resurfaced here. "Your career's pretty much a blink of an eye. You look one day and you're the veteran of the staff. But he's very knowledgeable and helps guys out. I actually played against him when I was in Baltimore and he was in Tampa.

"He always had good stuff. [He] knew how to pitch and get guys out."

In the process he's become that steadying influence any rotation needs. Whether ultimately that leads to a prolonged stay here or a ticket out of town for the rebuilding Phils, Hellickson knows he belongs.

"I still feel young," said Hellickson, who signed a one-year, $7 million contract after the Phils' acquired him in the offseason for minor league righthander Sam McWilliams. "Obviously, I've been around a few years. But I know if you just take care of your body you can play a long time in this game."

Then perhaps, like Hellickson, you, too, can someday be the old man of the rotation.

Phillies pitchers overachieving, lead league in several stats

The Phillies record, 16-11 with a minus-22 run differential (through Wednesday afternoon) is impressive. It implies that despite having scored the second-fewest runs in all of baseball, they must be pitching out of their minds.

And they are. The Phils lead the majors with 272 strikeouts, the most by more than 20 and also boast an MLB-best six shutouts after Aaron Nola's effort Tuesday night in St. Louis.

The Phillies also have two of the four best opponent batting averages in baseball, with Vincent Velasquez's .146 second only to Jake Arrieta's .142 (and Nola in fourth at .176).

Nola, following seven scoreless innings against the Cardinals, has the longest streak (20 innings) by a Phillies pitcher since Cole Hamels threw 22⅔ scoreless in June 2014.

"Every time he does it, it's awesome," catcher Cameron Rupp told the media Tuesday night. "All of these guys come out, and when they do it, it's fun for me. It will never get old. The way they pitch and the demeanor they have out there, it's awesome to be a part of."

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The 2015-16 Flyers, from A-Z

We've got 26 observations from the season that was.

ERIC GOLDSTEIN
@EricEsponda
sports@metro.us

The Flyers recently completed season was full of highs and lows on and off the ice. From A to Z, here is a recap and look ahead to next season.

The Flyers surprised many in 2015-16 and have a very bright outlook for next season. GETTY IMAGES

Anniversary
The organization will celebrate its 50th year of joining the NHL next season.

Bruising checks
Of his 304 hits (second in the NHL), many of defenseman Radko Gudas' were bone-crushing.

Career highs
For Wayne Simmonds (32 goals), Brayden Schenn (26 goals, 59 points), Michal Neuvirth (2.27 GAA/.924 save percentage), Gudas (five goals) and Ryan White (11 goals).

Depth
The Flyers need to address it on offense this summer.

Edward M. Snider
The Eagles legendary founder and owner passed away, but not before seeing his beloved Flyers clinch an unlikely playoff spot.

Future
It definitely looks bright.

Ghost
A Rookie-of-the-Year finalist, defenseman Shayne Gostisbehere infused the team with much-needed energy and talent on following his call-up in November.

Hall of Fame
Rod Brind'amour and Jim Watson are the newest members of the Flyers' club.

Invisible special teams
The power play went 1-for-24, while the penalty kill gave up eight goals against the Capitals in the playoffs.

Justified
GM Ron Hextall's risky hire of North Dakota State coach Dave Hakstol.

Killer fourth line
Pierre-Edouard Bellemare, Chris VandeVelde and White were a unit to be reckoned with.

Lou Nolan
Only in Philly does the PA announcer get to chastise 20,000 fans about not showing class, and then has his face on a T-shirt handed out to fans with "Stay Classy Philadelphia" printed on it.

March
The month the Flyers started their push to the playoffs.

No. 1 goalie
Was it Steve Mason or Neuvirth?

Overachievers
At 41-27-14 and a playoff appearance, the Flyers exceeded expectations.

Powerful performance
Lauren Hart's rendition of "God Bless America" while face-timing with Snider two days before his death.

Quiet exit
Expect the team to buy out R.J. Umberger's final year and not re-sign Evgeny Medvedev.

Rivalry game outdoors
The Flyers will face the Penguins next February at Heinz Field.

Stoic stare
Hakstol had one serious expression.

Tough season for Jake Voracek
No goal until the 18th game and struggled with an injury over the final 20.

Unloading Vinny Lecavalier's contract
Hextall continued to show his deal-making moxie by trading the expensive cap hit.

Visiting Ed Snider's house
The team's trip to see their ailing chairman in California in December was emotional and inspiring.

Wristbands
Who will ever forget the embarrassing scene of fans tossing them onto the ice during Game 3?

X-Rays
Players who missed at least 15 due to injury: Michael Del Zotto, Sean Couturier, Mark Streit and Neuvirth.

Yes
The answer to the question, "Will the Flyers win a playoff round next year?"

Zero
Sorry to end on a sour note, but this was the number of goals Claude Giroux and Simmonds scored in the playoffs.

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City of Philadelphia Public Hearing Notice

The **Committee of the Whole** of the Council of the City of Philadelphia will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, May 11, 2016**, at **10:00 AM**, in **Room 400, City Hall**, to hear testimony on the following items:

160170 An Ordinance to adopt a Capital Program for the six Fiscal Years 2017-2022 inclusive.

160171 An Ordinance to adopt a Fiscal 2017 Capital Budget.

160172 An Ordinance adopting the Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2017.

160173 An Ordinance amending Section 19-1806 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Authorization of Realty Use and Occupancy Tax," to further authorize the Board of Education of the School District of Philadelphia to impose a tax on the use or occupancy of real estate within the School District of Philadelphia, under certain terms and conditions.

160174 An Ordinance amending Section 19-1801 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Authorization of Tax," to further authorize the Board of Education of the School District of Philadelphia to impose a tax on real estate within the City of Philadelphia, all under certain terms and conditions.

160175 An Ordinance amending Chapter 19-1500 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Wage and Net Profits Tax," by revising certain tax rates, under certain terms and conditions.

160176 An Ordinance amending Title 19 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Finance, Taxes and Collections," by adding a new Chapter 19-4100, entitled "Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax," under certain terms and conditions.

160180 Resolution providing for the approval by the Council of the City of Philadelphia of a Revised Five Year Financial Plan for the City of Philadelphia covering Fiscal Years 2017 through 2021, and incorporating proposed changes with respect to Fiscal Year 2016, which is to be submitted by the Mayor to the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority (the "Authority") pursuant to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement, authorized by an Ordinance of this Council approved by the Mayor on January 3, 1992 (Bill No. 1563-A), by and between the City and the Authority.

Immediately following the public hearing, a meeting of the Committee of the Whole, open to the public, will be held to consider the action to be taken on the above listed items.

Copies of the foregoing items are available in the Office of the Chief Clerk of the Council, Room 402, City Hall.

Michael Decker
Chief Clerk

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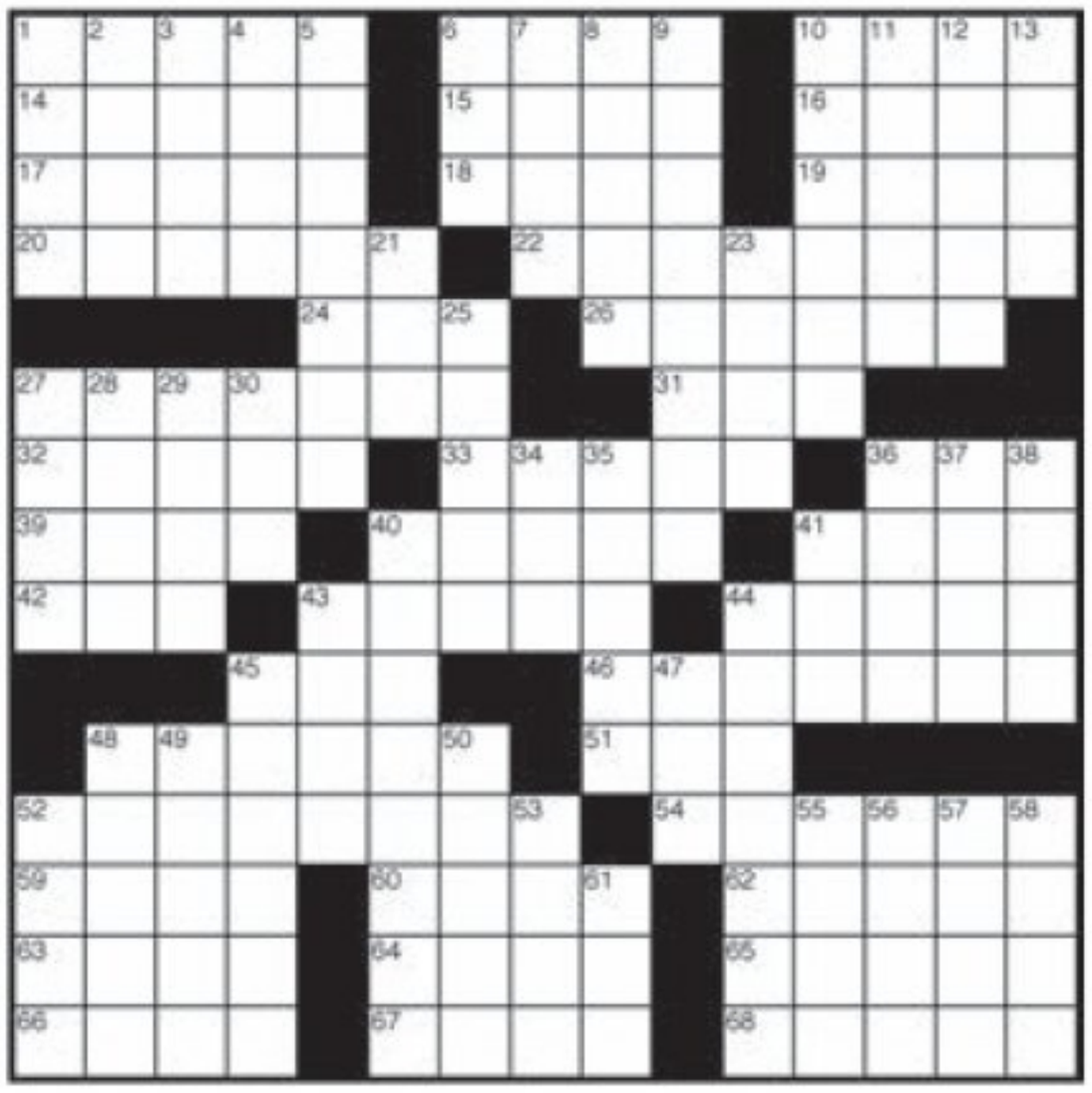

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metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Balance, integrity and proper incentives will help you get your way. Take a moment to enjoy what you have and be grateful for it. Don't get dragged into someone else's melodrama.

Taurus Represent who you are and what you plan to do in a unique manner. A debate with someone from a different background is best handled with diplomacy.

Gemini A set budget will help you avoid unnecessary purchases and financial loss. Don't feel obliged to give money to someone looking for a handout. Offer suggestions, nothing more.

Cancer Your versatility will surprise friends and family. Consistency has always been your modus operandi, but today, taking a unique position or path will bring stellar results.

Leo You will need to compromise if you want to get things done. A positive but passionate approach that offers incentives will help you get others to see things your way.

Virgo It's a good day to set the stage, voice your opinion or make travel plans. Whatever you touch will turn to gold, as long as you avoid senseless arguments and no-win situations.

Libra Do whatever it takes to save money. Make changes at home that will please the ones you love. Getting along and keeping the peace will give you time to consider your options.

Scorpio Draw interest by offering a different perspective on a situation at home. Your concerns and suggestions will qualify your position and help you gain approval.

Sagittarius You can only do so much. Put a limit on your spending and time. You'll be given false information that could lead you astray. Do your own research.

Capricorn Home should be your first concern. Supplying comforts and security is important, but don't jeopardize your financial position. Honesty and affordable plans will bring good results.

Aquarius Accept the inevitable and make whatever you are faced with work to your advantage. Don't be swayed by someone looking out for his or her own interests.

Pisces Refuse to let the desires of others deter you from doing your own thing. Someone from your past will give you the insight you need to move forward. Trust in yourself. **EUGENIA LAST**

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